



HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006

HAHAIONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Lester Muraoka called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum present. He welcomed everyone to the May meeting of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lester Muraoka, Bob Clark, Dolores Elms-Beattie, Marian Grey, Richard Halverson, Jeanette Hanson, Mary Houghton, Donald Huff, Greg Knudsen, Wayne Levy, David Livingston, Tony Paresa, Elizabeth Reilly, Jim Sharp and John Steinmiller.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Russ Saito (Comptroller, Department of Accounting and General Services, Governor Linda Lingle's representative); Senator Sam Slom, Sid Quintal (Director, Enterprise Services Department, Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative); Councilmember Charles Djou, Francisco Figueiredo and Nolan Kido (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office staff); Capt. Mahoi and Firefighter Ricardo Yost (Honolulu Fire Department), Captain Robert Green, Lt. Alex Ahlo, Sgt. Maurice Asato, Officer Jason Hendricks and Detective Steve Foreman (Honolulu Police Department); Lorna Heller (Board of Water Supply), Maureen Muraoka, Suzanne Roig (*Honolulu Advertiser*), Murray Luther (Hawaii Kai Booster), Harry Blanchette; Ian Arakaki, Linda Levins and Lee Mansfield (Hawaii American Water Co.); Janet and Stan Zisk; Gayle G. Carr, Steven Geshell and Tai Hong (Livable Hawaii Kai Hui); Steve Grey, Shaun Yuen and Yvonne Menpa (CBPP), Steve Carr (Pres. Keaulokoi), Mike Klein (HICDA), Tom Yamabe (Farmer), C. Stuhlmiller, Natalie Iwasa, Tracy Simons, Noble Turner (Noble Turner Realty International), Michael Bass, Kamuela Kaneshiro, Todd Shelley, A.J. Halagao (WeLoveHawaiiKai.com), Ivonne Cardenas and Bob Farrell (Makakilo.com); and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 25, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The following corrections were made:

Page 6, fifth paragraph, it should read. "The daughter of Jerry Hucks, who championed the archery range, had the original plans, which showed that the project was outside the berm."

Page 7, at the top, it should read. "1. Board member Knudsen reported that there was no "sinkhole," but work crews had inspected and repaired an expansion joint on Kalanianaʻole Highway between Hawaii Kai and Kulioou, which disrupted traffic for two days."

Page 7, under "Comments followed." it should read, "3. Vice Chair Paresa commended the City and Mayor's representative Quintal for their follow up on the boulder on Koko Head Crater. The City has been monitoring the boulder for one and one-half years and it has not moved. Vice Chair Paresa wanted to reassure the residents on Ahukini Street."

Page 8, at the top, it should read, "2. Vice Chair Paresa wanted to commend the City Council for the Energy Committee. He suggested a "Government Efficiency" committee be formed to find ways to make government more efficient and reduce costs to taxpayers."

Page 9, at the top, it should read, "2. Vice Chair Paresa asked if there were any possibility of giving a portion of the budget surplus back to the taxpayers to offset recent increases in the cost of living due to increased gas, electricity, medical insurance, etc. Representative Berg responded that she doesn't believe we have a surplus, but it may be increased tax collections resulting from where we are in the economic cycle. She said that she will work with her colleagues to redistribute the surplus they feel are the best needs of the government. Board member Huff mentioned that the State must refund at least \$1. Chair Muraoka requested that she research this. Board member Grey mentioned the Governor favored a refund of \$150 per person and that the tax rate for the lower income levels be adjusted. None of these proposals were discussed. Board member Grey felt that the Majority Party feels that they can spend excess taxpayer money better than the taxpayers could if they received a refund. Representative Berg responded that the Majority Party, rather than refunding a small amount, favors spending the surplus wherever they determine is appropriate."

Page 9, in the middle, it should read, "6. Chair Muraoka mentioned that Vice Chair Paresa and Board member Livingston are working on a forum to discuss the education budget and education."

Page 11, at the top, it should read, "2. Board member Reilly asked a question and made a statement. If they were granted the extension, would the developers pursue a variance to build 90 feet, which didn't comply to the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan (EHSCP). When they originally purchased the land it was with the requirement that it was for affordable housing."

The minutes of the April 25, 2006 were accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT- No report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- No report.

STATUS REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)- Firefighter Ricardo Yost reported:

1. For May there were 2 structure fires, 62 medical emergencies, 21 search and rescues and 2 miscellaneous service calls.
2. Fire safety tip- Prepare a fire escape plan. Map out your escape routes with at least two ways out of each room. Designate a location outside the house where everyone can meet. Know where the closest phone is to call 9-1-1.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

Board member Bob Clark asked about a request he made a few months ago for the number and percentage of emergency calls for December and January for the elderly home on Kawaihae Street. Capt. Mahoi said that HFD replied at the March 2006 meeting. Board member Clark would check the March meeting minutes and have a follow up question next time.

Chair Muraoka thanked Capt. Mahoi and Firefighter Yost.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD)- Lt. Alex Ahlo introduced the other members of HPD and reported the following:

1. The written report for District 7, April 2006, included a map of the beats: For Beat 774, there was 1 burglary (same as March 2006), 5 thefts (-2 from March 2006) and 0 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV) (-6 from March 2006). For Beat 776, there were 0 burglaries (-3 from March 2006), 4 thefts (-5 from March 2006) and 0 UEMV (-13 from March 2006). For Beat 778, there were 2 burglaries (+2 from March 2006), 3 thefts (+1 from March 2006) and 1 UEMV (-4 from March 2006). For Beat 780, there were 0 burglaries (same as March 2006), 0 thefts (-2 from March 2006) and 3 UEMV (-3 from March 2006). For Beat 782, there was 0 burglaries (-1 from March 2006), 1 thefts (+1 from March 2006) and 2 UEMV (-1 from March 2006). For Beat 784, there was 0 burglaries (same as March 2006), 1 theft (-1 from March 2006) and 4 UEMV (-3 from March 2006). Also, there were a report from the Narcotics/Vice Division and "A Family Guide to Using the Internet" by the National Crime Prevention Council."
2. Lt. Ahlo mentioned that there was a significant decrease in UEMV and burglaries due to the arrest of a suspect, responsible for several UEMV and two people arrested in two stolen vehicles.
3. The monthly tip was on the use of the Internet. (See above.)
4. Last month Capt. Green mentioned the four areas, they are working on for Hawaii Kai- graffiti, speeding, property crimes and easing the flow of traffic. This month's statistics show that car break-ins dropped from 23 to 0. In District 7 there were 20 graffiti arrests. Seven people, ranging in age from 11 to 21 years old, were from Hawaii Kai. Concerning speeding enforcement, officers wrote over 500 citations or written warnings in April. Capt. Green wanted to thank the public for reporting graffiti and other suspicious behavior and encouraged the public to continue reporting crimes.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Donald Huff mentioned that every morning he sees people, who "run the red light." Capt. Green replied that there are officers monitoring the traffic in the morning and they would have to pull the driver over to the side and it would slow down traffic flow. They also have solo bike officers that could ticket violators. It appears to be an islandwide problem that they will address.
2. Vice Chair Tony Paresa thanked HPD for their hard work and mentioned that last month, Lt. Delima had predicted that the statistics would go down with the arrest of one person. Capt. Green said that the one suspect may have been responsible for at least 10 UEMVs (from fingerprints) and maybe more. Vice Chair Paresa asked if there were a rash of motorcycle accidents and to give some details. Also, as he noticed that there are more people bike riding, what were the rules for bike riding three to four abreast on Lunalilo Home Road or Kalanianaʻole Highway. Capt. Green replied "single file is the law" and concerning the motorcycle accidents, "speed kills." For both four-wheel and two-wheel motor vehicles, speeding is the major contributing factor for fatalities in accidents. That's why they are "cracking down" on speeding.
3. Resident Murray Luther shook Capt. Green's hand and said that Capt. Green was a man of his word. Last month Capt. Green said that HPD was going to work on speeding enforcement and they did. Luther and the audience acknowledged the HPD with applause.

Chair Muraoka mentioned the newspaper article reporting the graffiti arrests and he thanked Capt. Green and Lt. Ahlo.

Board of Water Supply (BWS)- Lorna Heller distributed her monthly report and highlighted the following:

1. There was one main break on Kaluanui Road.
2. Congratulations to the winners of the Board of Water Supply's water conservation week poster contest! Eleanor Yuan is a student at Koko Head Elementary School and she won in the first and second grade category.
3. Last month she mentioned the public hearing on May 15 with the proposed water rate increases. After postponing the scheduled rate increases for eleven years, the BWS passed the revised rates, effective October 1, 2006. There would be a 13 percent increase for the single-family customer, or an additional \$3.23 per month. She distributed the rate increases and a press release. There would be a five-year schedule for the rate increases- 12 percent on July 1, 2007, 10 percent on July 1, 2008, 8 percent on July 1, 2009 and 5 percent on July 1, 2010. After that the BWS would seek modest "cost of living" increases based on the Honolulu Consumer Price Index.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Mary Houghton commended the BWS on their quick repair of last week's water main break at the top of Hahaione valley and Hahaione Street. .
2. Vice Chair Paresa asked what the dollar amount of the monthly charge would be after the five-year scheduled increases. Keller passed out a chart which had the figures.
3. Resident Harry Blanchette asked why the 13 and 12 percent per year increases surpassed the rate of inflation. Keller read from the press release. The BWS has worked hard over the years to control costs and has been able to defer scheduled rate increases since 1995. However, they can no longer afford to postpone rate increases, due to increased operating costs and to proactively maintaining the aging infrastructure. Some of the increased costs are for emergency road repaving, construction, electricity, fuel and personnel. The average age of the infrastructure is 30 to 50 years old, which coincides with the post-World War II "baby boom."
4. Board member Knudsen requested that Board of Water Supply (BWS) press release and the water rate increases chart be given to the Board Chair Muraoka and be posted on a Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board website.

There were no further questions.

Chair Muraoka thanked Heller.

Board Announcements- (7:30 p.m.)

1. Board member Houghton offered condolences to the Gene Boats family. He may have been a founder of Hui Nalo and a supporter of the canoe paddlers. She also mentioned the Dog Walk on June 4. Registration starts before 8:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Hawaii Kai "Park and Ride."
2. Board member Elizabeth Reilly mentioned that resident Herb Schreiner was at a Kaiser High School Athletic Awards ceremony and couldn't make it to tonight's meeting. As he ran for a vacancy last month, he did not want the Board to think that he was no longer interested in the Board. He wants to serve on a couple of committees. Board member Reilly suggested to him that he mention that at the next meeting.
3. Board member Huff wanted to rise for a point of personal privilege. He acknowledged Neighborhood Assistant Ho for his hard work on the thirteen-page minutes and for coming early to the meetings to set up. The Board and members of the audience applauded.
4. Board member Elms-Beattie announced the Hawaii Kai Lions will have their annual Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast on June 18. Call them for tickets.

Chair Muraoka thanked everyone.

Committee Reports-

Parks and Recreation- Committee Chair Mary Houghton announced the next Parks and Recreation committee meeting would be on Friday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. She e-mailed the agenda out to people who signed up to be on her committee and if anyone wanted the agenda before it is mailed out, he/she could contact her. She wanted to thank Janet Zisk for the book with beautiful photos by Albert Benedict on the Ka Iwi coastline and hoped to meet with Zisk at the end of the Board meeting.

Transportation- Committee Chair Dolores Elms-Beattie reported that they had their first Community Traffic Awareness Partnership (CTAP) sign waving last Friday on Hawaii Kai Drive in front of Kuapa Pre-School. Sgt. Herb Schreiner and resident Natalie Iwasa attended. He was supposed to bring pictures, but had another event tonight. Committee Chair Elms-Beattie thanked everyone for participating and she is planning the next one.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO)- Committee Chair Donald Huff announced that OMPO at their June meeting had new topics to discuss. They will have a survey to give to the Neighborhood Boards in July. He plans to have a committee meeting to respond to the survey. The Federal government is requiring OMPO to involve the Neighborhood Boards.

Health & Safety- Committee Chair John Steinmiller had e-mailed Ian Arakaki of the Hawaii American Water Co. and requested how much sewage was spilled off of Portlock, how was it reported to the media and who tested the water after the recent rains. He also received e-mails concerning the smell at the sewage treatment plant at Sandy Beach and with the new developments, if they can handle the increased sewage.

Lily Wong had notified him of Ed Lau's grading violations and she wanted to know who in the City was following up on Lau.

Committee Chair Steinmiller offered to follow up with the Hawaii Bicycling League about riding four-wide and that HPD said single file.

Committee Chair Steinmiller asked if there would time to take a vote on the Board's personal position on the archery range. Chair Muraoka mentioned that the request was to place the vote on the agenda and to have a special meeting. However, there was no special meeting and the vote was not placed on the agenda. Chair Muraoka suggested that he could discuss it at the June 9 Parks and Recreation committee meeting. Committee Chair Steinmiller wanted the vote two weeks ago to stop further construction and thought that since there was no

quorum, he assumed that the vote would be tonight. Chair Muraoka mentioned that Steinmiller's assumption was incorrect and it was not on the agenda.

Legislation, Ethics & Policy- Committee Chair Anthony Paresa thanked Chair Muraoka for appointing him as the committee chair. In the past he has urged the previous committee chairs to prepare a legislative package. He plans to have a sub-committee meeting in October to give to area legislators for the next session in January. He plans to have a "candidates' forum" after the Primary Election. He also requested that Board members e-mail him possible resolutions concerning the "Sunshine Law." He would work with Chair Muraoka to vote on a resolution at the next meeting. He feels this is a major concern for the Neighborhood Boards.

Board member Knudsen would like to "test the Sunshine Law" and mentioned that under the "Sunshine Law" Committee Chair Paresa is not allowed to poll Board members, even individually.

Communications- Committee Chair Rich Halverson had no report.

Planning and Zoning- Committee Chair Robert Clark reported that he has received two Draft Environmental Assessments. One project involves improvements on Kalanianaʻole Highway between Keahole Street and Hawaii Kai Drive and adding an extra right turn lane from Keahole onto Kalanianaʻole Highway. Comments were due May 23, but he got the notice tonight. The other draft Environmental Assessment was for the improvements to prevent rockslides and road repaving at Makapuu Point. Comments are due on June 22.

Education- Committee Chair David Livingston had no report.

Community Relations- Committee Chair Jeanette Hanson reported that the concerning the Hawaii Kai Costco expansion and parking lot grading, she has talked with the manager of the Hawaii Kai Town Center and there would be no gas station, just parking..

She also received a letter and a Digital Video Disc (DVD) for students in grades 3 through 12. Any interested person could take the DVD with them.

Board member Knudsen made a point of information. He did not think it was appropriate for the Board to make an endorsement of a program that is sponsored by a religious organization. Narconon is not allowed in Hawaii's public schools because it not based on a scientific basis. It is also banned in California. It is a group supported by the Church of Scientology. Committee Chair Hanson thanked Board member Knudsen for his comments.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Advisory- Committee Chair Wayne Levy had no report.

Chair's Announcements-

Chair Muraoka mentioned that he also received a letter and the Ka Iwi coastline pictorial book from Janet Zisk. He would circulate it among the Board members for their review. He also presented a certificate of appreciation to Board member Elizabeth Reilly for being the newest Board member.

PUBLIC GENERATED ISSUES: (7:49 p.m.) Chair Muraoka reminded speakers to line up and introduce themselves, then briefly share the issue.

Koko Head Archery Range- Janet Zisk returned from last month to oppose the archery range location, not archery. She brought the pictorial book of the Ka Iwi coastline. It was published in 2000 and the photographer, Albert Benedict, has since passed away. Zisk had spoken with Benedict's son-in-law, who was opposed to any changes to the natural state. She and her husband, Stan, were saddened by the construction and support the relocation of archery range.

Board member Knudsen mentioned that Board members have been receiving e-mails from Zisk and other representatives of her group (to preserve the Ka Iwi coastline). They mentioned that they had the support of the Sierra Club and the Outdoor Circle. Knudsen checked with both organizations and while they may be sympathetic to the general concept, they do not support the total removing the archery range and restoring the site to its original state. He also asked, as she was the archivist for the Kamehameha Schools and other members of her group had decades-long standing and association with the Kamehameha Schools, where was her voice when many areas of Bishop Estate land were being developed, like Costco. Zisk replied that she did

not represent the Kamehameha Schools and that she was not here. She added that Costco was on commercial land, not on "park" land and the archery range is on "park" land, for conservation or "scenic." She was presenting her own personal point of view.

Chair Muraoka thanked Zisk for her comments.

Board member Steinmiller mentioned that three weeks ago he requested a vote by the Board to get each member's personal view on the location issue of the archery range. As there was no special meeting, due to lack of quorum, he hoped that the vote would be taken tonight. He expressed his disappointment that the vote would not be taken.

Vice Chair Paresa mentioned that he has been on the Board for five years and he had submitted many suggestions to the previous Board Chair, which were not placed on the agenda. Vice Chair Paresa added that Chair Muraoka must decide which items go on the agenda and manage the time.

Chair Muraoka thanked Vice Chair Paresa for his comments and added that since these issues came out the Parks and Recreation Committee, they could be further discussed fully at the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on June 9 before a Board vote.

Board member Bob Clark supported Chair Muraoka's position that the archery range issues should go back to the Parks and Recreation Committee, before coming to the Board.

Resident Tai Hong supported the archery range at its present location. While it is a temporary "eyesore," when the landscaping grows in, it will be safe and beautiful. The location is good as the winds would go over the Koko Head Crater and the sun would not shine in the archers' eyes. When it is finished, the place will be beautiful again. If not, he offered to water the plants himself.

Community Traffic Awareness Partnership (CTAP)- Resident Natalie Iwasa thanked Transportation Committee Chair Dolores Elms-Beattie for organizing the CTAP sign-waving last Friday. The HPD officer suggested that if they are notified one month in advance, they could make solo bikes available.

May is "Bike Month." Unfortunately, just as they are a few bad drivers, there are a few bad bike riders. There are a lot of good ones. She offered some safety tips- if you have a driveway, where you can't see the road, consider installing a fish-eye mirror. If you estimate that the bicyclist is going 15 miles per hour, then plan as if it were going 30 miles per hour, so you don't cut them off. If you estimate that there is three feet between you and the bicyclist, you may consider six feet or changing to the next lane. She asked that drivers be more aware of bike safety. She feels that the benefits of bike riding outweigh the risks. It is more risky for a pedestrian than a bicyclist. She added that City Charter Commission has forwarded a ballot proposal to make Honolulu a "pedestrian and bicyclists-friendly city." She urged everyone to vote for this proposal in the fall. Chair Muraoka referred this to the Transportation Committee Chair Elms-Beattie to work with Iwasa to see if the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board takes a position on this. Chair Muraoka thanked Iwasa.

WeLoveHawaiiKai.com- Hawaii Kai resident A.J. Halagao distributed decals and presented information and a slide show about his new, non-profit website. He started the website to get volunteers to help clean up the graffiti on his daughter's pre-school's playground equipment. It could be used as a bulletin board for the Neighborhood Board, as Board member Knudsen mentioned earlier, to announce a Councilmember Charles Djou beach clean up, sporting events, the dog walks, and the Hawaii Kai Lions Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast. He has links to the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board and the Livable Hawaii Kai Hui and could have links to the area's elected officials. He showed pictures of the graffiti clean up volunteers and "before and after" pictures. He mentioned that other communities have their stickers and Halagao mentioned that even if you don't use the website, you can display your pride in the community on your car.

Board member Elms-Beattie asked about the non-profit status. Halagao replied that they are working with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to form a "501 (c) 3" non-profit organization. As there are expenses for the decals and registration at DCCA, they are having a fundraiser selling T-shirts. Everyone is invited to e-mail the T-shirt size to the website. Board member Elms-Beattie suggested that he ask all of the store owners in Hawaii Kai to display the decal in the window. Halagao would follow up.

Chair Muraoka asked how to get information to the website. Halagao replied that he could just e-mail him at AJ@welovehawaiikai.com.

Board member Reilly remarked about the timing of his presentation and that she was just talking with long-time Hawaii Kai resident Murray Luther before the meeting to help organize an "I Love Hawaii Kai" event, similar to the Kailua, Kalihi or Liliha events, to promote pride in the community.

Chair Muraoka thanked Halagao for his presentation and hoped that the information would go out.

Newsstands- Resident Steve Carr reported that at the corner of Lunalilo Home Road by the Union 76 station and at various locations around Hawaii Kai, there were newsstands with real estate literature. There were four or five stands, chained to City-owned stop signs, etc. Carr asked if the Board could look into if they were legal. As it seems to be a commercial use of City property, do they need a City permit and if the City gets any money from them. He favors removing them.

Chair Muraoka thanked Carr and referred this to Community Relations Committee Chair Hansen.

Bike Riding- Vice Chair Paresa offered a correction on bike riding. A HPD officer just mentioned that the law allows for two bikes riding abreast. Board member Huff asked if that was for riding on a bike path or on the road. Chair Muraoka asked Health & Safety Committee Chair Steinmiller to look into this and report back.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS:

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative- (8:08 p.m.) Sid Quintal, Director of Enterprise Services Department mentioned the following:

1. While the Board of Water Supply water rate increases appear to be high, they are necessary after many years of neglect of the City's infrastructure, like the sewers. The BWS costs have gone up and the Mayor's representative Quintal asked for everyone's understanding that projects would help us maintain our quality of life in the future.
2. Concerning Board member Steinmiller's questions on the sewers in Hawaii Kai, he would find out the requested information from the operator of the Hawaii Kai system. Chair Muraoka mentioned that it was not necessary as Lee Mansfield from the Hawaii American Water Co. was here tonight and would give a presentation tonight.
3. Concerning Ed Lau's land grading issue, Mayor's representative Quintal would send it to Department of Design and Construction (DDC) to follow up.
4. Board member Elizabeth Reilly mentioned that the dust screen at the end of Hawaii Kai Drive was in disrepair. The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) Civil Engineering Branch (CEB) inspection staff has been pursuing this, along with other non-compliance matters. Enforcement action will be taken against the responsible parties as appropriate. In the interim, the contractor has indicated that the section of the dust screen fence in disrepair may not be necessary at this time, and may be removed. The Civil Engineering Branch (CEB) staff will continue their follow-up.
5. Concerning Mr. Watari's son, who hit a damaged section of sidewalk while riding on a scooter and broke his arm, the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) response was that the sidewalk has been temporarily patched resolving the safety issue until such time as a permanent repair can be affected. Mayor's representative Quintal asked if Mr. Watari would notify the Board when the repairs are completed.
6. The Honolulu Marathon Committee was supposed to have an "evaluation/wrap up" meeting in March 2005. What was the outcome? At the March 2005 Honolulu Marathon Committee evaluation meeting, area residents' concerns about vehicular access were discussed and revisited. The Honolulu Police Department and the Marathon officials assured the City that they would do a better job in allowing both vehicular and pedestrian access to East Oahu residents for the 2006 Honolulu Marathon. They reminded the City that the safety of both the entrants and the general public was still of the highest priority and would take precedence over allowing access.

7. Concerning Dr. Mele Welte's opposition to the archery range, the DDC has sent Board member Knudsen information on the fencing and plans showing both the landscaping and the fence. It will be shared at the Parks and Recreation committee meeting on June 9. Mayor's representative Quintal mentioned that he and a representative from the DDC should be there.
8. From the February meeting, Maureen Muraoka (Chair Lester Muraoka's wife) asked about the "not in service" buses. The response was Department of Transportation Services (DTS) is budgeted for a set amount of service hours; "not in service" buses are necessary to remain within our operating budget. Carrying passengers will slow these buses down, adding to the time required to travel to or from the bus facility, incurring additional time and overtime for the operator. As you can see, this will add to the cost to operate "not in service" buses and the City only recovers 30% of the cost to operate the bus service from fares. If the answer is not satisfactory, Mrs. Muraoka can see him later and he would be happy to follow up again.
9. Concerning resident Steve Geshell and the Hawaii Kai Post Office, Department of Transportation Services (DTS) contacted Mr. Geshell and he clarified that he has safety concerns with queuing vehicles waiting to make a left turn into the Post Office during peak periods. He proposes physically restricting the left turn by installing delineators and providing a roundabout at Kaluanui Road so vehicles are able to turnaround to access the Post Office.

We informed Mr. Geshell that a check of the accident history at this location did not indicate a necessity to restrict the left turn at this time. In addition, our traffic calming program has been suspended, and we are currently unable to install measures such as roundabouts. However, our investigation revealed that the queuing occurs when vehicles within the Post Office parking lot are waiting for available stalls fronting the building entrance. During these peak periods, other vehicles enter the lot and the queue gradually backs up to the driveway. This causes vehicles waiting to turn left into the Post Office to queue on Hawaii Kai Drive. In addition, because of the proximity of the entrance driveway to the Wailua Street intersection, mauka bound traffic going straight would have to wait until the queue clears to proceed.

In view of these conditions, we requested the Post Office's assistance in addressing this concern. They informed us that they have an overflow parking area that could help relieve the congestion on site. The overflow area is in the same lot as the loading dock and is located to the left after entering the driveway. Since patrons may not be aware of this additional area for parking, the Post Office has agreed to install "OVERFLOW PARKING" directional signs near the entrance of the driveway and have their counter clerks inform patrons of this area. Also, they have informed us that any further concerns regarding the Hawaii Kai Post Office should be referred to Duke Gonzalez at 423-3713.

10. Concerning Board member Huff's question of the benefits of the rail system to Hawaii Kai residents, the response from DTS was Hawaii Kai residents would be able to use the mass transit (rail) system for travel within the corridor. Also, members of their family who do live in the corridor will directly benefit from the service the system provides.
11. Concerning resident Murray Luther's requesting a letter from the Mayor acknowledging/recognizing the Neighborhood Board for their efforts in the political process, Mayor's representative Quintal asked for an extension of time to reply and assured Luther that he has not been forgotten.
12. Last month's sewer questions would be addressed by the Hawaii American Water Co. later tonight.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Houghton commented that she welcomed having a person from Department of Design and Construction (DDC) at the June 9 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

She has recently become a bus rider and she wanted to compliment the bus service. It was a pleasant experience and the seats were "comfortably full."

She has been to the Hawaii Kai Post Office when the overflow parking was full. Maybe it was at the end of the day and the mail trucks are competing with the customers for the parking spaces.

She added that when the former Mayor's Administration Team visited the Neighborhood Board, they had very productive meetings. She suggested that a visit by Mayor Hannemann would be beneficial for everyone. She thanked Mayor's representative Quintal for answering the Board's many questions.

2. Vice Chair Paresa also thanked Mayor's representative Quintal for doing a great job. Concerning the BWS water rate increases, they are proposing a permanent rate structure rather than a temporary assessment. They want a "cost of living" increase after the approximate 48 percent increase.

Concerning the sidewalks, his wife called in a crack in the sidewalk. A lady came out and said they will fix the crack. Then, he got a letter stating that the treatment to the planter strip in front of his house was non-conforming. As he did not have a variance, he had 30 days to comply or pay a fine. The City has to pay the contractor to fix the crack. He will fix what the previous owner did, but he questions why he has 30 days to fix it, when the City takes longer than 30 days to fix their cracks. Vice Chair Paresa would give Mayor's representative Quintal his address to take back. Vice Chair Paresa mentioned that unless you have a variance, the only things allowed on that planter strip are grass and trees. Rocks and anything else are non-compliant. To get a variance, there is a \$100 fee. Then, the homeowner accepts all liability for anything that happens on your property and the sidewalk. If the sidewalk cracks after you have accepted the liability, you have to fix it. Be very careful about seeking a variance. You will be fixing the root damage from a City-owned tree in your new sidewalk.

3. Board member Marian Grey mentioned that at last month's meeting Mayor's representative Quintal had reported on improvements at the Blowhole, \$150,000 for design and \$1 million for construction. She remembered a 17-year old boy crawled up to the Blowhole, got sucked in and died. His mother sued everyone and asked to cover the Blowhole. Board member Grey requested more details about a mesh to cover the Blowhole. Mayor's representative Quintal would follow up.

Board member Knudsen had asked Director Lester Chang of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Alan Hong, who manages the Blowhole and Hanauma Bay about this issue. There are no plans for a barrier around the Blowhole, although Board member Knudsen thought it would be a good idea to keep an eye on it.

4. Board member Wayne Levy had asked about the benefit to Hawaii Kai residents from the rail system last month. He understands the response about using the system within the corridor, but would there be more buses to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Mayor's representative Quintal would follow up.
5. Board member Halverson supports rail in West Oahu. It would make West Oahu more attractive and reduce pressure for people to move to Hawaii Kai. He added that they have to have rail in West Oahu before rail in Hawaii Kai. Chair Muraoka suggest to Board member Huff to have a committee meeting to discuss rail. Board member Huff mentioned that the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) 2030 Plan has nothing for Hawaii Kai.
6. Last month resident Natalie Iwasa asked about the Waikiki sewer spill. She has since learned that Mayor Hannemann has taken money out of "planning" and put it in "design" and that it would take seven years. Her question was why it took so long. Mayor's representative Quintal explained that the City Council has just passed increased sewer rates to provide for infrastructure. The Mayor would be putting in a temporary by-pass line for emergency purposes until the permanent project can come on-line. The environmental impact statements and the permitting process take a lot of time. The Mayor has accelerated the permitting process so that when the funds become available, the City would be ready to move.
7. Board member Houghton suggested an express bus from East Honolulu to Kapolei.
8. Concerning traffic at the Hawaii Kai Post Office parking lot, resident Tai Hong asked if DTS had taken into consideration the 320 condos coming on at the Peninsula and the 100 to 200 units that will be built by Mike Klein. Also, the Christmas rush would make the area very busy. Mayor's representative Quintal would ask if they used this information when they made their assessment. Chair Muraoka referred this matter to Transportation Committee Chair Elms-Beattie to discuss this and make a recommendation to the Board.

9. Maureen Muraoka again mentioned the "not in service" buses going to and from Hawaii Kai. She asked if they could pick up customers going one way. Mayor's representative Quintal promised to get a representative from TheBus to the next meeting to answer her questions.

Board member Grey requested bus service from Hawaii Kai to Waimanalo in the mornings. Her son got a job in Waimanalo and has to take a bus to Downtown and transfer to the Kailua bus to get to Waimanalo, which takes over 2 and 1/2 hours for an 8-mile trip. So, he bought a car. Mayor's representative Quintal thinks that there might not be a big demand for the Hawaii Kai to Waimanalo route, but she can ask next month.

Chair Muraoka thanked the Mayor's representative Quintal.

Councilmember Charles Djou- (8:35 p.m.) Councilmember Djou distributed his newsletter and highlighted the following:

1. He wanted to thank A.J. Halagao for setting up the WeLoveHawaiiKai.com website.
2. Concerning the newspaper boxes, they do need permits. His office will check if all of the ones on Lunalilo Home Road have permits.
3. Concerning the Blowhole, there would be no grate. The money would go to improve the parking lot with re-paving and re-stripping. The City prevailed in the lawsuit and was required to put up a sign to the effect "Don't straddle the Blowhole."
4. There will be a Budget Committee hearing tomorrow and a full Council meeting on June 7. They passed a one-time \$200 discount for homeowners off of their real property tax, but it is only for one year. He prefers it to be every year.

The City Council will be lowering the residential real property tax rate from \$3.75 per \$1,000 to \$3.59 per \$1,000, a \$19 million tax cut. However, the commercial/non-residential rate is going up from \$11.59 per \$1,000 to \$11.97 per \$1,000, a \$13 million tax increase. They may pass on the increases to the consumers by raising prices for their goods and services. For the median-priced Hawaii Kai \$800,000 home, the net savings would be a little over \$300 (with the \$200 rebate).

5. The City Council had a re-organization. He is now Zoning Committee Chair.
6. He has introduced legislation concerning parades in Waikiki.
7. Concerning Lunalilo Home Road, later tonight DTS will have a presentation on taking back the median strip to allow drivers to make a left turn at the Union 76 station/Hawaii National Bank corner.

Questions, answers and comments followed

1. Board member Houghton asked about the City Council re-organization. Councilmember Djou explained that before, there was a Planning and Zoning Committee. Now, there is a Zoning Committee and a Transportation and Planning Committee.
2. Concerning the newsstands, Chair Muraoka asked who issues the permits and how many are allowed. Councilmember Djou would follow up on the administrative rules.

Chair Muraoka thanked Councilmember Djou.

Senator Sam Slom- (8:40 p.m.) Senator Slom distributed his newsletter, which summarized the legislative session that adjourned on May 4, and reported the following:

1. Governor Linda Lingle has vetoed five bills and none have been over-ridden. She has until July 11 to act on the bills. There was a record 354 bills passed and 145 bills have been signed into law.

2. Concerning the "Bottle Tax," now containers up to 68 ounces (2-liters) are included. Due to a reported 70 percent return rate, there will be a 1/2 cent increase on September 1, 2006. Senator Slom questions and challenges the Department of Health (DOH) figures.
3. He encouraged everyone to get their pancake tickets from the Hawaii Kai Lions.
4. He commended A.J. Halagao for the WeLoveHawaiiKai.com website.
5. He will attend the Kalani High School graduation on Thursday and the Kaiser High School graduation on Friday.
6. Yesterday, he attended the Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Board member Knudsen and Mayor's representative Quintal were there, too. In the afternoon, he attended ceremonies at the State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe.
7. He announced that the Costco parking lot has been graded, but the pile driving will start in seven days and will go for the next three or four weeks.
8. The Queen's Health Care Center will have a blessing on June 19 at 10:00 a.m.
9. He thanked the HPD and the residents for the graffiti arrests. He feels that the arrested people are not "artists," but criminals and vandals and they deserve to be arrested and punished.
10. The two major political parties held their conventions this past weekends. The Libertarian Party's convention will be next Sunday. The sign up deadline to run for this year's elections is 4:30 p.m. on July 25, 2006.
11. The "Akaka Bill" will be coming up for vote in the U.S. Senate. Last year a resolution passed the State Legislature, 75 to 1, to support the "Akaka Bill." Senator Slom was the only one to vote against the resolution, because the "Akaka Bill" has never come before the people of Hawaii for a vote. Of the two polls taken, one poll showed that 80 percent of the people favored the "Akaka Bill" and the other poll showed that 80 percent of the people opposed the "Akaka Bill." No one has seen the "amended Akaka Bill." He will predict that the "Akaka Bill" would not pass.

Comments followed.

1. Board member Houghton saw an ad about hiring people for the Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL), which has the "Pride of Aloha" cruise ship. The ad mentioned "gaming" and asked about it. Senator Slom mentioned that "gaming" is allowed outside the territorial waters of Hawaii and the U.S. There is no "gaming" (gambling) in Hawaii and Utah.

Chair Muraoka thanked Senator Slom.

Senator Fred Hemmings- Senator Slom reported that Senator Hemmings was ill and could not attend tonight. His newsletter was distributed to the Board.

Representative William "Bud" Stonebraker- No representative was present.

Representative Lyla Berg- (8:48 p.m.) Representative Berg distributed her Neighborhood Board Report and highlighted the following:

1. Her newsletter showed how the \$20 million allocated to the Department of Education (DOE) would be distributed to area schools. Under the Weighted Student Formula (WSF), all of the schools in her district had a negative, but now, they have a positive. She mentioned that the School Community Councils (SCC) would be working with the school principals to adjust their educational programs to meet their students' needs.
2. Concerning the 10-point energy plan, it is very general. When her Legislative report comes out, there would be more details.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Knudsen mentioned that some of the reductions to the elementary school are not due to the WSF, but they are transferring their sixth graders to Niu Valley Middle School. Representative Berg added that Wailupe School wants to partner with the Honolulu Symphony for music and may let community groups use the facilities for adult day care.
2. Board member Grey asked about the pluses and minuses for schools in the newsletter. Representative Berg explained that the negative numbers would have been under the proposed WSF, but the schools' budgets were not cut and they got increases. Board member Grey asked if this was where part of the \$700 million State budget surplus was spent, rather than refunding it to the taxpayers. Representative Berg replied that this was where part of the money allocated to the DOE was spent. This money goes to the schools and the School Community Councils (SCC) works with the principals on how to spend the money.

Board member Knudsen added that from the \$20 million, each elementary school in the State gets \$63,000, each middle school gets \$84,350 and each high school gets \$126,580. Representative Berg mentioned that this money is for educational services. Also, there was a large bill with money for repairs and maintenance for the schools.

3. Representative Berg had two requests. As she learned that relationships are everything and that the relationship between the State and City & County of Honolulu needed to be "enlivened," she asked what information she could provide each month to help the Neighborhood Board do their work.

She also asked the Neighborhood Board to explore a partnership with the City & County of Honolulu to maintain and repair school facilities, like the Kaiser High School track, or at least, to start a dialogue to help make the facilities more available to the community.

She wanted to form a committee to discuss both State and City & County of Honolulu taxes.

At the Democratic Party convention, she was assigned to chair the government operations committee. She thinks that similar resolutions were passed at the Republican Party convention and would be introduced at the next Legislative session.

4. At the last Neighborhood Board meeting, Chair Muraoka asked about the "Sunshine Law" and why the Legislature was exempt. Representative Berg replied that because in the legislative process, the period of time is short. No decisions are made in conversation. Because they have only 60 days to work, they felt that they should be exempt. Next year, she would make the language stronger. As long as no decisions are made, the Neighborhood Boards should also be exempt. Board member Houghton suggested that Representative Berg start working on it, so that the Board can organize grassroots support from the other Neighborhood Boards during the election season. Representative Berg mentioned the building of trust.

Chair Muraoka did not accept her explanation of the 60-day time limit.

Board member Halverson asked for clarification of her explanation. Representative Berg mentioned that in the legislative process, the bill goes to many public hearings, committees and allows for a lot of transparency. There may be some disagreement over the power struggle. She also mentioned working with Neighborhood Board No. 2 about the issue of repeat offenders.

Resident Maureen Muraoka asked if Representative Berg would make sure that her "Sunshine Law" exemption bill is heard in committee. Representative Berg replied that it was heard in the House, but went nowhere in the Senate.

5. Resident Todd Shelley suggested that she drop the taxes and "Sunshine Law" ideas. He thinks that "development" is the big issue. Representative Berg agreed.

Chair Muraoka thanked Representative Berg.

Governor Linda Lingle's representative- (9:05 p.m.) Russ Saito, Comptroller, Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), used to be the Governor's representative a few years ago, distributed the Governor's report and mentioned the following:

1. The Department of Health (DOH), Vector Control branch is at phone- 483-2525. Concerning the West Nile virus, there is no trace of West Nile virus in Hawaii. Concerning mosquitoes, the DOH website advised to reduce standing water, to repair screens and to use insect repellent.
2. The Governor wants to reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel. As Hurricane season is approaching, there were three bills concerning disaster preparedness, hardening the facilities and housing codes for emergency shelters.
3. He showed a picture of radio towers. The last time he attended the Neighborhood Board meeting they were just starting to build the tower at Hanauma Bay for "first responders." The new building will house all of the Federal, State and City & County of Honolulu equipment and some of the "eyesore" would be taken down.

Question, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Knudsen wanted to thank the Governor for signing a bill today to create a position of Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Education (DOE). This will give the public and the legislature a better picture of the \$2.1 billion budget.

Concerning graffiti crimes, he showed a picture of graffiti along the coastline near Hawaii Kai asked who was responsible for painting it over. It has been over one week and the visitors in the tour buses can see it. Governor's representative Saito will take it back to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Highways Division for follow up.

2. Board member Levy asked about the 50-year storm county standards. Governor's representative Saito mentioned that Governor wanted the State emergency shelters at a higher standard, but the counties set the building codes. As the head of Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) he is working with the counties for a uniform building code.

Concerning disaster preparedness, Vice Chair Paresa commended Ed Texeira of the State Civil Defense. Vice Chair Paresa suggested that they look at livability and temporary shelters.

Also, he heard on the radio about someone mailed in a change of address form and stole someone's identity. Governor's representative Saito mentioned that Governor Lingle has signed many bills concerning identity theft.

Going back to the disaster preparedness, Governor's representative Saito mentioned that the State does not have enough emergency shelters, that everyone should prepare a personal emergency kit, "harden" the central core of home and make a family plan.

Chair Muraoka mentioned that the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 had a presentation on Disaster Preparedness several months ago.

3. Natalie Iwasa suggested when printing the Governor's update to use two-sided paper. She also requested that the town-bound bike lanes be swept for pebbles on Kalanianaʻole Highway. Governor's representative Saito agrees with Iwasa about the two-sided paper and would take her concern back to the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Chair Muraoka thanked Governor's representative Saito.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS-

Presentation on the Lunalilo Home Road Median Improvements Project- (9:20 p.m.) Don Hamada, Department of Transportation Services (DTS) described the left turn area near the Union 76 station. It should be

completed by November 2006 They would co-ordinate the project with the Hawaii American Water Co. sewer project.

Board member Livingston left the meeting.

(9:36 p.m.) Vice Chair Paresa left the meeting.

Update on the Hawaii American Water Co. rehabilitation work on Lunalilo Home Road- Ian Arakaki reported about the March 31, 2006 rains. Flooding caused a sewage spill of 6,200 gallons at "China Wall" in Portlock. It was one-part sewage and 3-parts storm water. They did a chemical analysis and notified the media.

The Hawaii Kai sewage plant pumps the treated sewage 25 miles off of Sandy Beach. It was not originally planned to treat odor and adding chemicals for odor control is expensive.

Concerning if they can handle new developments' capacity, they had 11,000 customers and have 1,100 new ones. They handled 5.2 million gallons a day and have sufficient capacity if more is added.

Comments followed.

Board member Knudsen mentioned that he had requested to hide the fence and to check the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 June 2002 minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS- (9:49 p.m.)

1. The next regular Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2006 Hahaione Elementary School Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.
2. Broadcasts of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 9:00 pm on Olelo Channel 54. Please check your local TV listings. Chair Muraoka invited everyone to participate in the Neighborhood Board meetings and to get on the mailing list to be informed.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no objections, Chair Muraoka adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant